

Claims

1. A program reservation-and-recording apparatus which records a reserved program in a recording medium, comprising:

a reservation-information input section which accepts a reservation for a program by a user;

a reservation-information memory which stores reservation information which indicates the contents of a reservation for a program;

a recording control section which records the program in the recording medium, based on the reservation information;

a program-list acquisition section which makes a request to an information-providing server that is connected via a general-purpose network, and from the information-providing server, acquires a program list on which a program time is described for each program; and

a reservation-information update section which updates the reservation information that is stored in the reservation-information memory, based on the acquired program list.

2. The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time immediately before a program-recording start time which is described in the reservation information.

3. The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time immediately before a program-recording completion time which is described in the reservation information.

4. The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time after a program-recording completion time which is described in the reservation information; and

the program reservation-and-recording apparatus further comprises an erasure control section which makes a decision, based on the program list acquired at the time after the program-recording completion time, whether or not an unreserved program is included within a recording time for the program whose recording has already been completed, and if it is included, erases the unreserved program from the recording medium.

5. The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

the time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time when a program reservation is made in the reservation-information input

section;

the program list includes a program identifier for each program which is a code for identifying a program;

the reservation-information input section includes a program-identifier extraction section which extracts the program identifier which corresponds to a program for which a reservation is made by the user from the program list acquired at a time when the program is reserved, and stores it as a part of the reservation information in the reservation-information memory; and

the erasure control section makes the decision by comparing the program identifier of the program whose recording is completed and a program identifier on the program list acquired at the time after the program-recording completion time.

6. The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time when a program reservation is made in the reservation-information input section and a time subsequent to it;

the program list includes a program identifier for each program which is a code for identifying a program;

the reservation-information input section includes a program-identifier extraction section which extracts the program identifier which corresponds to a program for which

a reservation is made by the user from the program list acquired at the time when the program is reserved, and stores it as a part of the reservation information in the reservation-information memory; and

the reservation-information update section compares the program identifier of the program for which the reservation is made and a program identifier on the program list acquired after the time when the reservation is made, and retrieves information on the program list so as to update the reservation information.

7. The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time when a program reservation is made in the reservation-information input section;

the program list includes a program identifier for each program which is a code for identifying a program;

the program identifier includes an identifier for identifying whether or not a corresponding program is a final one of serial programs; and

the reservation update section erases the contents of a periodic recording reservation for the serial programs from the reservation information based on the identifier, after a recording of the final program is completed.

8. The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 7, further comprising:

an apparatus-identifier memory which stores an apparatus identifier for identifying the program reservation-and-recording apparatus itself; and

an apparatus-identifier transmission section which transmits the apparatus identifier to the information-providing server when communication is executed between the program reservation-and-recording apparatus itself and the information-providing server.

9. A program reservation-and-recording system, comprising:

a plurality of the program reservation-and-recording apparatuses according to any of claims 1 to 8; and further,

an information-providing server which is connected via a general-purpose network to the plurality of program reservation-and-recording apparatuses and sends the program list in response to a request from the plurality of program reservation-and-recording apparatuses.